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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,327	10/24/2005	Mark Gilmore Mears	PU030138	5399
24498	7590	06/27/2008		
Joseph J. Laks			EXAMINER	
Thomson Licensing LLC			NATNAEL, PAULO S M	
2 Independence Way, Patent Operations				
PO Box 5312			ART UNIT	
PRINCETON, NJ 08543			PAPER NUMBER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/554,327

Applicant(s)

MEARS ET AL.

Examiner

PAULOS M. NATNAEL

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: AV/C is not defined in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nguyen et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,084,780.

Considering claim 1, Nguyen discloses remote control device for use with a PC and multiple A/V devices, and teaches receiving data signals from a single control device 14 (Fig.2); 12C bus connection (col. 3, lines 16); a graphics processor (GPU) 102 including a software driver 104 that provides information for controlling the various A/V devices to a button mapping software 106 that handles the A/V devices, the buttons are automatically associated with the appropriate control functions for a particular A/V device (Fig.3). Moreover, Nguyen discloses that the method for remotely controlling

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audio/visual (A/V) devices within a personal computer (PC), the method comprising the steps of: (a) mapping each button on a single remote control device to predetermined key codes, wherein a first set of buttons select operation of one or more A/V devices and a second set of buttons control operation as a function of the selected A/V device; (b) storing the mapping in a look-up table in a graphics card in the PC; (c) receiving within the graphics card a first data signal corresponding to a selected one of the first set of buttons; (d) translating within the graphics card the first data signal to a first control function utilizing the look-up table to select operation of a particular A/V device coupled to a PC; (e) receiving within the graphics card a second data signal corresponding to a selected one of the second set of buttons; and (f) translating within the graphics card the second data signal to a second control function utilizing the look-up table to control operation of the particular A/V device coupled to the PC, wherein the selected one of the second set of buttons is automatically associated with an appropriate control function for the particular A/V device. (See, col. 5, lines 47 through col. 6, line 7; emphasis added). Thus, Nguyen discloses all claimed subject matter.

Considering claim 2, Nguyen discloses 12C bus connection (see, col. 3, lines 16).

Considering claim 3, the claimed AV/C (assuming it's audio video command protocol) is inherently disclosed in the A/V device of Nguyen et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims **9-24** are allowed.
5. Claims **4-8** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to disclose the following combination of limitation of an apparatus comprising: input/output means for enabling signal transfer between said apparatus and an external device via a data bus; processing means for detecting a first command signal of a first control protocol from a user input device, and for detecting one of first and second modes of said apparatus; wherein said processing means detects said first mode in response to making a connection between said apparatus and said external device via said data bus, and detects said second mode in response to terminating said connection between said apparatus and said external device via said data bus; wherein said processing means enables said input/output means to output a second command signal of a second control protocol to said external device via said data bus responsive to said first command signal if said first mode is detected; and wherein said processing means enables a function of said apparatus responsive to said first command signal without enabling output of said second command signal to said external device if said second mode is detected, as in claim 9; and,

a television signal receiver, comprising: an input/output terminal operative to enable signal transfer between said television signal receiver and an external device via a data bus; a processor operative to detect a first command signal of a first control protocol from a user input device, and for detecting one of first and second modes of said television signal receiver; wherein said processor detects said first mode in response to making a connection between said television signal receiver and said external device via said data bus, and detects said second mode in response to terminating said connection between said television signal receiver and said external device via said data bus; wherein said processor enables said input/output terminal to output a second command signal of a second control protocol to said external device via said data bus responsive to said first command signal if said first mode is detected; and wherein said processor enables a function of said television signal receiver responsive to said first command signal without enabling output of said second command signal to said external device if said second mode is detected, as in claim 17.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bourassin et al. U.S. 4,337,480 discloses a dynamic audio-video interconnection system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAULO M. NATNAEL whose telephone number is (571)272-7354. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/PAULOS M. NATNAEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622

June 19, 2008